

A1  
cont.

12. (Amended) A method of determining whether an agent inhibits Spo//E function in *Bacillus* species, which method comprises inducing the *Bacillus* strain of claim 5 to sporulate in the presence of the agent, and observing expression of the first and the second reporter gene.

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15. (Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the *Bacillus* strain is induced to sporulate and is contacted, just prior to asymmetric cell division, with the agent.

16. (Amended) A panel of the micro-organisms of claim 1 wherein in different members of the panel genes have been partly or wholly replaced by homologous genes from different micro-organisms.

A2

17. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein a panel of micro-organisms as defined in claim 16 is incubated in the presence of the agent, and expression of the reporter gene or genes is observed in different members of the panel.

18. (Amended) A method which comprises incubating a micro-organism of claim 1 in the presence of an agent, observing expression of the one or more reporter genes and thereby determining that the agent inhibits the growth of the micro-organisms, and using the agent as an antibiotic.

19. (Amended) A method of killing or inhibiting the growth of bacteria, which method comprises contacting the bacteria with an agent which inhibits the growth of a micro-organism of claim 1.

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